

strings and requiring that only those who pass suitable examinations may draw pay, even that difficulty will be removed.

#### THIS WILL SETTLE QUESTION OF CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY

It is proposed to empower the President to draft members of the National Guard into the Federal service in wartime, setting at rest immediately any question of conflict of authority over the troops when needed.

To meet numerous demands on the commissioned personnel of the regular army, the bill will add 500 officers, bringing the total up to 7,000 as proposed by the War Department in its tarsis plan. It also will provide for an increase in the medical corps and the medical reserve corps, and for the detailing of three army officers for duty with the American Red Cross.

The enlistment period for the regular army will be fixed at seven years, probably divided into four years with the colors and three in reserve. Provisions will be made, however, for the discharge of efficient men into the reserve with less than four years' service.

In providing for the nitrogen fixation plant, the bill will not specify the government water-power site to be made use of, its selection being left to the War Department. While the industry will be built up by private capital for the production of fertilizer, it will be provided that the government shall have the full output available in wartime for powder manufacture.

The McKellar bill proposes the establishment by each state of a college of engineering, starting with one army officer as assistant and civilian as secretary. Students would be selected by competitive examination, or as the board might later direct. A graduate would be assigned to the officers' reserve corps and be obligated to answer any call for service within seven years. He would also be liable for additional training at summer encampments. The institutions would be patterned after West Point, and each would have a minimum attendance of 400 students.

#### SPECIAL BOARD TO PREScribe THREE OR FOUR-YEAR COURSE

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Forced withdrawal by the British from the edge of the mine crater to which they recently advanced is also reported, as is the repulse of an allied attack on the German lines along the Lens-Arras road.

The official statement says:

"Western theater of war, North of Ypres an English hand-grenade attack on our new position on the canal was repulsed."

South of Lens the enemy again was forced to withdraw from our crater position.

"On the Lens-Arras highroads they attacked without success."

Our aeroplane squadrons attacked several enemy positions behind their lines, such as Furnes, Poperinghe, Avesnes and Lameville. Many successful results were observed.

Eastern theater of war, Russian attacks in front of Brest failed. Minor enemy advances at other points also were repulsed.

"Italian theater of war. There is nothing to report."

#### ARTILLERY OPERATIONS

#### LIGHT OVER WHOLE FRONT

PARIS, February 21 (via London)—The War Office statement to-day reads:

"Operations on the part of the artillery on both sides were light over the whole front, except to the north of Verdun, where there was some activity. In the Arras district, to the northwest of hill No. 110, the enemy attempted to make two local attacks with grenades."

"A squadron of six French aeroplanes bombarded the munition depots of the village of Chateau de Martin, east of Maubourguet (southwest and southeast of Toulouse). German aeroplanes dropped some projectiles last night on Lameville, Cambous and Nante. They caused only a small amount of damage."

#### OFFICIAL GERMAN ACCOUNT

#### OF RAID ON BRITISH COAST

BERLIN, February 21 (via wireless)—The official German account of the raid on the British coast yesterday, issued to-day by the admiralty, follows:

"German naval aeroplanes on February 20 at noon attacked the British coast."

"Bombs were landed with good success on factories on the rear of the railway and on the docks and gasometer in Lowestoft. The main station and docks in Lowestoft were hit several times. The gasometer broke down under the effect of bombs. In addition, two tank steamers were bombed."

"In spite of the enemy's fire and pursuit by aeroplanes all the German aeroplanes returned safely."

#### EARTH TREMORS FELT IN VARIOUS SECTIONS

(Continued from First Page)

"The shock was not so great as to do any damage, but the shock was sufficient to put out the lights and break chimneys in a number of houses."

#### NOT GENERALLY FEELLED BY ROANOKE PEOPLE

ROANOKE, Va., February 21—Citizens here report a slight seismic tremor between 5 and 6 o'clock this afternoon. The quake, however, was not generally felt.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., February 21.—Two severe earth shocks were felt here at 5:45 o'clock to-night, the shocks lasting for about fifteen seconds each. Dishes were knocked off shelves in several sections of the city, but so far no material damage has been reported.

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## United States Expects Apology From Austria

**Special to The Times-Dispatch.** WASHINGTON, February 21.—Apology to the United States and reparation for the punishment of the submarine commander who ordered the American tanker Petrolite fired upon are expected from Austria in the immediate future, as the result of a cable received to-day from the State Department from Ambassador Penfield at Vienna.

Penfield's dispatch stated that Austria is about to make its reply, pending which it asks that judgment be deferred.

An official of the State Department said:

"What we understand from the message of Mr. Penfield is that Austria holds that by accident or by mistake the submarine commander fired at the American flag she will make amends."

The State Department is disposed to wait until the Austrian reply comes.

The questions involved in the case are the holding of a member of the crew of the Petrolite as a hostage, the reconditioning of food, and firing on the ship after it had obeyed international law.

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## AERIAL ENGAGEMENTS FEATURE OF DAY IN WEST

**Greater Losses of Aircraft Than During Any Previous Twenty-Four Hours of War.**

#### GERMAN ZEPPELIN DESTROYED

Operations on Land Confined Largely to Artillery Combats, Reaching Greatest Intensity Before Verdun, Where Bombardment Is Fierce.

**Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.**

LONDON, February 21.—A Zeppelin in flight over the French lines in the Argonne was brought down to-day by a squadron of antiaircraft guns mounted on motor cars. The flying warship was pierced by an incendiary shell, and fell in flames.

More aerial engagements, with greater losses of aircraft, were recorded to-day than during any previous twenty-four hours of the war.

Besides the Zeppelin, five German fighting machines were shot down, and two others were forced to land. Six engagements, ranging from duels between single machines to engagements between upwards of a score of machines on either side, were fought during the day, according to the French official report.

Four raids, one by the British, using twenty-six machines, were carried out. The operations extended from end to end of the western front.

Operations on land were confined largely to artillery combats. These reached the greatest intensity before Verdun, where the Germans are conducting a terrific bombardment, seemingly preparatory to an attack against French strongholds.

South of the Somme, in the Lihons sector, where the "bloody angle" juts toward Paris, the Germans prepared for an extensive attack. After intense artillery bombardment they discharged successive clouds of asphyxiating gas over a front five miles long. But, according to the Paris official statement, the "barrier" fire of the French artillery, abetted by the musketry fire, kept the Germans in their trenches and forestalled the attack.

**DRIVEN OUT OF CRATER IN COUNTERATTACK**

The night official report of the French War Office is as follows:

"In Artois, north of the road from Lille, the Germans to-day exploded a mine. An immediate counterattack on our part drove them out of the crater, the sides of which we hold."

Today this afternoon, the Germans carried out a violent bombardment of our trenches northwest of Giverny, Our batteries replied vigorously.

"South of the Somme, on the Lihons sector, after an intense bombardment of our lines, accompanied by successive discharges of asphyxiating gas along a front of seven kilometers (about five miles), the Germans tried to leave their trenches at various points. They were repulsed everywhere by our barbed-wire and infantry fire."

"In Champagne we carried out an effective fire on the German organization west of the road from St. Mihiel to St. Souplet."

"In the Argonne we poured a destructive fire on the German works near the road from St. Hilaire, demolishing several observation posts on the edge of the Cheppy woods."

"Throughout the entire region of Verdun, the artillery on both sides has continued to display great activity.

"Southeast of St. Mihiel we bombarded the German positions in the Ardenne woods.

"The Germans have fired a certain number of shells at St. Mihiel. One resident was killed and seven were wounded."

**AVIATION.** The day has been marked by numerous aerial combats, over Taxissoir, east of Althausen, one of our aeroplanes attacking a Fokker. At close range, opened fire on it with fifteen cartridges. The hostile machine tilted onto its right wing and then fell.

"Near Chaudan an "Albatross" was brought down by our artillery fire. In the region of Bures, north of the forest of Parroy, a German machine, attacked by two of ours, was brought down within our lines. The pilot and passenger were killed.

"A squadron of seven French machines gave battle to four German aeroplanes in the region of Vignelles-le-Chatelet. Two of the German machines were forced to land, the other two took to flight."

"German aeroplanes have bombed Fismes, Bar-le-Duc and Revin. Near the latter point a German squadron, composed of fifteen machines, was attacked by one of our squadrons of pursuit, and was forced to give battle. In the course of the fight a German aeroplane was brought down near Givry, in the Argonne. Two of the aviators were taken prisoner."

"A second enemy aeroplane, which was being pursued, fell head-first inside the German lines."

"One of our bombing squadrons, composed of seventeen machines, dropped sixty-six heavy shells on the aviation field at Malmaison and on the railway freight depot of Malmaison. Another squadron of twenty-eight machines dropped numerous projectiles on the German munition factory at Fismes and Muese."

"All of our machines returned safely to their bases after these various operations."

"A Zeppelin in flight from St. Mihiel toward the south, has been brought down by a squadron of zero machines mounted on motor cars from Revin. Pierced by an incendiary shell, it fell in flames in the outskirts of Brabant-le-Roi."

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